Rev'd. Amos A. Phelps,

Boston, Mass.

(To be left at 32 Washington Street)

get this — & let me know your mind. We shall, probably soon fix on some plan of operation for this State — & shall also extend our correspondence out of the State, if there be a fair prospect of a general movement on this subject. I feel it to be one of the deepest moments to the true interests of christianity. I wish to know whether a christianity which tolerates & apologizes for slavery is to be extended over the earth, or that true christianity which teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves & forbids all oppression.

Another thing I had almost forgotten. The idea of a Congregational Paper for all New-England is being started — to be true & faithful to the great cause of Humanity & Liberty, as well as all other moral & religious subjects. This paper to be of a large size — containing general intelligence &c. equal to any religious paper in the country — & to take the place of such papers as the Recorder — Puritan, Journal, Chronicle, &c. & if there be any other of the like character. It is lamentable beyond expression that our religious papers are bound & blind & dumb in a great measure on the subject of slavery & Human Rights. It is enough to make one tremble to think of it in connexion with the destinies of our country, with our benevolent enterprises, & the day of judgment! How long shall it be thus? O Lord, How long! — Write me as soon as possible. Yours &c. in christian love

Rufus A. Putnam

seize an opportunity of writing to you this moment (& must do it in great haste) to inquire how this proposition strikes your mind. Shall we have a Convention of Ministers in New England at Boston next May, to discuss the subject of American Slavery in its bearings on the great benevolent objects of the Day — & especially, Foreign Missions? We want facts in the case — principles settled — & some course to be pursued which will bid fair to arouse the cause of benevolent action from the blasting and terribly withering influence of the demon Slavery.

If thought best to call such a Convention — How shall it be done? — Shall it consist of ministers only, or include laymen? (Some here think one way & some another.) — If it include laymen, shall they be appointed by churches, as such, or assemble as individuals? (Some think the action of churches, as such, will produce a stronger influence on the Board — while others think the action of the clergy would tell better on the cause.)

In the present state of things I am myself inclined to the belief that a Convention of ministers alone could produce the best result. I cannot stop now to give reasons. I shall, however, acquiesce in any course which on the whole shall be thought best.

I wish you could write me the very first moment you can spare after you

Rev. Rufus A. Putnam
Chichester. N. H.
Jan. 19. 1842.

Chichester N. H. jan. 19. 1842.

Rev. Sheldon —

6 We have commenced a correspondence with some of the ministers in this State on the doings of the A. B. C. F. M. on the Memorial, sent to them at their last An. Meeting, in regard to slavery; & their position relative to the same. Some are satisfied, ~~with their doings~~ — some almost satisfied — & some not at all satisfied — with the said doings & the said position. The Question is — Shall we do any thing more? — Some say, No. — Some are at a stand — Others some say we must urge the matter more strongly than ever. It is thought best to have the effort as general & as strongly influential as possible. It has been proposed to call a Convention of ministers in this State for deliberation — to lay down principles — to fix on some plan, & to devise methods to put it in operation. We cannot probably get such a Meeting in this State till next June. In the mean time it has been proposed by some to have a great & strong gathering of Ministers in Boston in May next to consider the "bearings of American Slavery on the Missionary enterprise." I